

where the chance of road accident is utmost nil, have to wear the headgear while driving or riding the two wheeler;

(b) whether Government are considering to modify the rules to make the village people free from the hardship of wearing the headgear;

(c) whether Government are considering to confer the power on State Government to make an exception; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for mandatory wearing of helmet by the person driving or riding on a two wheeler in a public place except in case of a Sikh wearing turban. There is no legal anomaly in Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Wearing of helmet is a protection against head injury. Occurrence of accidents on rural roads can not be ruled out.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under Section 129 of the Act, State Governments are empowered to provide for such exemption as they may think fit.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Bypass in Kota on NH-12

†1757. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to construct bypass in Kota on the National Highway No. 12 has been approved by his Ministry and N.H.A.I.;

(b) the bottlenecks in implementation of this plan; and

(c) the programmes formulated to do away with these obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Feasibility of Kota bypass on National Highway (NH) 12 shall be examined

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by the Detailed Project Report (DPR) consultants to be appointed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for four-laning of Deoli-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH 12. However, a bypass to Kota town on NH 76 (which intersects NH 12) has been taken up by NHAI as part of East-West corridor. The alignment of Kota Bypass on NH-76 passes through "Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary" for which permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court is being obtained. After obtaining permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, final clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest is also required.

Development of Bedi Port under NMDP

1758. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat/GMB has submitted proposal to take up development of Bedi Port under National Maritime Development Programme to DG shipping, Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take-up the project under Central Assistance;

(c) if so, the status and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development of seven minor ports from Maritime States for promotion of coastal shipping has been included in the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). As only one port from each Maritime State was to be included, Magdalla port was included from Gujarat. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of such ports is yet to be approved. Further action will be taken after the CSS is finally approved.

Four laning of Rishikesh-Haridwar highway

†1759. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for widening and converting the main

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